

LESSON
20

RETEACHING WORKSHEET

COPYMASTER

Rhythm and Meter

Review Poetry uses a pattern of stressed syllables to create **rhythm**. Students can **scan** a poem's rhythm by reading it aloud. Marking stressed and unstressed syllables will tell them whether the **meter** is **iambic** or **trochaic**.

Directions: First, **read** the poem, looking for the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables. Next, **answer** the questions about rhythm and meter.

Rain Music

On the dusty earth-drum
Beats the falling rain;
Now a whispered murmur,
Now a louder strain.

5 Slender, silvery drumsticks,
On an ancient drum,
Beat the mellow music
Bidding life to come.

10 Chords of earth awakened,
Notes of greening spring,
Rise and fall triumphant
Over every thing.

15 Slender, silvery drumsticks
Beat the long tattoo—
God, the Great Musician,
Calling life anew.

—Joseph S. Cotter, Jr

1. Scan the lines, marking each syllable.
2. What is the meter?
 - a. iambic
 - b. trochaic
3. Which of the following rhythmic effects does the poem display?
 - a. The first syllable in each line is emphasized.
 - b. The second syllable in each line is emphasized.
 - c. The third syllable in each line is emphasized.
 - d. both a and c
4. How does the meter affect the imagery, or picture, made by the words?
 - a. The regular meter helps the words create the image of a machine.
 - b. The rhymes of unstressed syllables give the poem an eerie imagery.
 - c. The regular meter creates a drumlike sound image of a steady rain.
 - d. The trimeter, three beats per line, creates the image of a drumstick.